

Applicant : Robert M. Ayers
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 1-14 and add the following new claims:

15. (New) A computer program product, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to perform operations comprising:

receiving a page layout template, the template including a hierarchy of boxes, the hierarchy including an exterior bounding box for the template and one or more interior boxes contained within the exterior bounding box, the exterior bounding box forming the topmost level of the hierarchy, the one or more interior boxes forming one or more lower levels of the hierarchy, each lower level including one or more interior boxes, the exterior bounding box having one or more dimensions that are variable, at least one of the interior boxes having one or more metrics that are variable in the same dimensions as the exterior bounding box, each metric specifying a size for the interior box, a distance between the interior box and another box, or both, the size or distance defined as a range of permissible values around a nominal value, the another box being another box on the same level or on a different level of the hierarchy;

converting the one or more variable dimensions of the exterior bounding box into one or more fixed dimensions; and

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes based on the fixed dimensions.

16. (New) The product of claim 15, wherein adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes includes:

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes in hierarchical order.

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17. (New) The product of claim 16, wherein adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes in hierarchical order includes:

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes independently in each dimension.

18. (New) The product of claim 16, wherein adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes in hierarchical order includes:

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes, first in one dimension, and then in another dimension.

19. (New) The product of claim 18, wherein adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes, first in one dimension, and then in another dimension includes:

terminating adjustment in a given dimension for an interior box and any child boxes contained within the interior box when the interior box has a synthesized metric in the given dimension, the synthesized metric being a metric that is adjusted after content has been flowed into the interior box.

20. (New) The product of claim 15, wherein adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes includes:

for each variable dimension,

for each level of the hierarchy,

for each interior box in the level,

adjusting the metric in the variable dimension to a value within the range of permissible values.

21. (New) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein adjusting the metric in the variable dimension includes:

if the metric is a synthesized metric, terminating adjustment of the interior box and any

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child boxes contained within the interior box, the synthesized metric being a metric that is adjusted after content has been flowed into the interior box.

22. (New) The product of claim 15, wherein:

the metrics include a synthesized metric, the synthesized metric being a metric that is adjusted after content has been flowed into the interior box; and

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes includes adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes without adjusting the synthesized metric.

23. (New) The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the operations further comprise:

flowing content into the interior boxes; and

adjusting the synthesized metric based on the flowed content.

24. (New) A computer program product, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to perform operations comprising:

receiving a page layout template, the template including a hierarchy of boxes, the hierarchy including an exterior bounding box for the template and one or more interior boxes contained within the exterior bounding box, the exterior bounding box forming the topmost level of the hierarchy, the one or more interior boxes forming one or more lower levels of the hierarchy, each lower level including one or more interior boxes, the exterior bounding box having one or more dimensions that are variable, at least one of the interior boxes having one or more metrics that are variable in the same dimensions as the exterior bounding box, each metric specifying a size for the interior box, a distance between the interior box and another box, or both, the size or distance defined as a range of permissible values around a nominal value, the another box being another box on the same level or on a different level of the hierarchy;

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converting the one or more variable dimensions of the exterior bounding box into one or more fixed dimensions; and

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes based on the fixed dimensions.

25. (New) The product of claim 24, wherein adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes includes:

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes in hierarchical order.

26. (New) The product of claim 25, wherein adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes in hierarchical order includes:

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes independently in each dimension.

27. (New) The product of claim 25, wherein adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes in hierarchical order includes:

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes, first in one dimension, and then in another dimension.

28. (New) The product of claim 27, wherein adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes, first in one dimension, and then in another dimension includes:

terminating adjustment in a given dimension for an interior box and any child boxes contained within the interior box when the interior box has a synthesized metric in the given dimension, the synthesized metric being a metric that is adjusted after content has been flowed into the interior box.

29. (New) The product of claim 24, wherein adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes includes:

for each variable dimension,

for each level of the hierarchy,

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for each interior box in the level,
adjusting the metric in the variable dimension to a value within
the range of permissible values.

30. (New) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein adjusting the metric in the variable dimension includes:

if the metric is a synthesized metric, terminating adjustment of the interior box and any child boxes contained within the interior box, the synthesized metric being a metric that is adjusted after content has been flowed into the interior box.

31. (New) The product of claim 24, wherein:
the metrics include a synthesized metric, the synthesized metric being a metric that is adjusted after content has been flowed into the interior box; and
adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes includes adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes without adjusting the synthesized metric.

32. (New) The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the operations further comprise:

flowing content into the interior boxes; and
adjusting the synthesized metric based on the flowed content.